MONTEREY NEWS

October 2009

VOLUME XXXIX · Number 10

The Town

by Sue Protheroe

Highways and Byways

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that work on tree damage caused by the winter storms has been completed. At the September 14th Select Board Meeting, Forbes reported work that work to repair and improve drainage on Fairview Road was nearly complete.

What to do about the abundant weed growth in areas underneath the guardrails along town roads has been a much-discussed issue at several recent Select Board meetings. Because the town doesn't own the proper equipment to mow in these awkward and tight places, any mowing would have to be outsourced. Spraying of weed killer was not considered an option because of environmental objections. The Board agreed to have the Highway Department do the work by weed whacking along the guardrails. Whether or not to spray weed killer will be brought up at a town meeting.

The Select Board drafted a letter to Governor Deval Patrick requesting funding from the Transportation Improvement Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to resurface the whole length of Route 23 in Monterey.

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Who says there are no moose in Lake Garfield? A big tip of the hat to Judy Rosebrock for this proof positive.

Wilson McLaughlin House

There was extensive discussion about the work at the Wilson McLaughlin house, specifically the repair of the driveway and parking area. Even though this work will be funded privately, the Town Attorney feels that all work needs to go out to public bid, which will add to the total cost.

The town has agreed to maintain the access to this property.

Lake Buel

Fred Vorck, longtime Lake Buel homeowner, reported that he accompanied Biodrawdiversity, an ecological consulting and communications company from Amherst hired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on an inspection of Lake Buel last month. Ethan Nedeau, aquatic ecologist, reported no visual evidence of zebra mussels, after a diver had investigated the lake. The water clarity in Lake Buel was good at seventeen feet on a cloudy day. (Clarity in other lakes has been reported at about nineteen feet on a sunny day.) Samples were also taken for plankton and water quality tests; no results have come in yet.

Earlier tests taken by Berkshire EnviroLabs showed elevated calcium and phosphorus, which makes the water receptive to zebra mussels. These tests need to be repeated because of the large amount of acid rain this summer; the real levels might be higher, which indicates that Lake Buel is even more receptive.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts plans to test seventeen lakes for zebra mussels—Lake Buel was eighth on the list. It was felt that this action by the state was largely prompted by the civil disobedience of the Monterey Select Board, with the support of local citizens, in closing the public boat ramps on Lake Buel until the situation was addressed. (The zebra mussel threat has been known for nine years.)

Police Blotter

- Assisted funeral traffic.
- Disabled tractor-trailer unit on Blue Hill Road.
- Tree down on Wellman Road; when Police arrived a Gould Farm worker had already cut it up and moved it.
- Missing swimmer call; Police and Fire responded, and she was found.
- Complaint about a large truck that backed up and knocked over the Hayloft sign.
- False alarms on Brett Road and Main Road.
- Motor vehicle accidents on Chestnut Hill, Tyringham, and Beartown Mountain Roads.
- Disabled motor vehicle at intersection of Tyringham and Main; tow truck called.
- Suspicious vehicle call.
- Report of a loose sailboat on east end of Lake Garfield; after a later call about a missing sailboat, owner and boat were reunited.
- Responded to a Link to Life call.
- Complaints about shots fired received from one home on Tyringham Road and two homes on Elephant Rock Road. Responding officer thought it was fireworks because one of the complainants saw a large white flash but was unable to find the origin. One of Select Board members thought it was gunshots as he also heard them at his house.
- Report of a dog bite on Elephant Rock Road; when Police arrived the owner was on the phone with the ACO who said she would handle it.
- A new dispatcher on the midnight to 8 a.m. shift was unable to reach a Monterey officer on the radio and called the Egremont Police to respond to a loose horse on Tyringham Road. The dispatch supervisor has been notified and the problem is being corrected.
- Fourteen-inch tree tree fell on wires on Main Road near Steven's Lake and Brett Road, causing power and phone outage in

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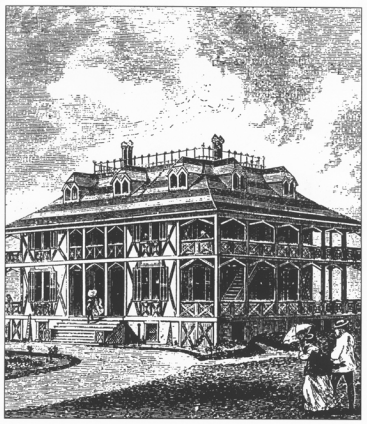
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Monterey. Chief Backhaus reported that the phones went out because the Verizon equipment is outdated and the necessary battery backups are not there.

- Summons on Fox Hill Road.
- Suspicious activity reported on Blue Hill Road; none found upon investigation.
- Missing inflatable boat from Beartown Mountain Road.
- Disturbance of the peace by Gould Farm resident.
- Motor vehicle accident, Tyringham Road.
- Medical call; Main Road.
- Assisted with Josh Billings Runaground race.
- Report of "large serious dog" walking down the middle of Tyringham Road; dog could not be found.
- Identity theft complaint.
- Domestic disturbance on Main Road; family left house under threat, and a warrant was issued. The situation was taken very seriously, and the individual is also under a restraining order.
- Assisted Great Barrington with alarm.
- Lockout on Main Road.
- Loose cows at Eagleton School.
- Found kayak on Lake Garfield; call Dale Duryea, 528-9355 if yours is lost.
- Abandoned 911 call, Gould Road.
- An emergency phone has been installed outside Town Hall that will automatically dial the Police Department after ringing the Town Hall.
- A permanent speed sign is being installed at the Monterey School.

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Mark Murray plays Native American flute during early morning community gathering for prayer and meditation at the town beach on International Day of Peace, September 21, Sponsored by the Center for Peace through Culture. (Photo Kathie Frome)

Town Matters

The following appointments were made at the recommendation of the Town Clerk:

For one year:

Election Clerk: Linda Thorpe
Deputy Election Clerk: John Bodnar
Election Inspector: Ruth Champigny
Election Inspector: Virginia Funk
Election Inspector: Barbara Tryon
Election Inspector, Deputy: Estella Bodnar
Election Warden: Raymond Tryon
Election Warden, Deputy: Joel Schick

For three years:

Registrars of Voters: Linda Thorpe
Registrars of Voters: Sally Pullen
Registrars of Voters, Assistant: Dean Amidon
Registrars of Voters: Assistant, Patricia Amstead

These individuals are representative of the Democratic and Republican parties and of Unenrolled voters.

Currently two seats are vacant on the Monterey Planning Board. Meetings are the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Interested parties must be registered voters in Monterey. The terms will run until the town election in May 2010. If you are interested, send a letter to both the Monterey Planning Board and

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the Monterey Select Board at PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

These Select Board–appointed committees have openings:

Agricultural Commission, two two-year seats.

Council on Aging, one three-year seat.

Historical Commission, one three-year seat.

Please send letters of interest to the Monterey Select Board at PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

If you have any great pictures of Lake Buel or Lake Garfield, please email up to three of your favorite pictures with a description of each to townmont@verizon.net so that Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe can put them on the Lake Buel and Lake Garfield pages currently under construction on the town website. Please include your name so that she can give you credit.

And don't forget to sign up on the website for email notifications of things like board minutes, agendas, legal notices, town events, and much more. Just go to www.montereyma.gov and click on the "subscribe to news" button in the right-hand corner of the page, then follow the instructions.

Lake Garfield

Lake Garfield drawdown is due to begin on October 15, 2009, and to end on February 15, 2010. Docks should be removed prior to the drawdown to prevent any damage, and the town is not responsible for damage to personal docks. Any questions about drawdown should be directed to Maynard Forbes, Director of Operations, at 528-1734.

The Friends of Lake Garfield have requested that an item be added to next May's Annual Town Meeting Warrant requesting $6500 to fund the fireworks for next year's LakeFest.

The Friends of Lake Garfield are funding a native mussel study for the lake. This will tell if native shellfish are harmed by drawdown. It will also determine how receptive the lake is to native mussels, including the zebra mussel. The results of the zebra mussel site trap will be posted by the Ecology Team of the Friends of Lake Garfield on the Friends of Lake Garfield website.

Flu Clinic

The seasonal flu shot clinic will be held on Friday, October 9, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Appointments are not necessary. You must be eighteen years of age or older. Shots are free with Medicare card, $22 without. Be sure to wear short sleeves!

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Edelstein on Einstein at Oct 21 Community Dinner

To start off the new year of Monterey Community Potluck Dinners, we have Dr. Richard Edelstein on October 21. He will be speaking on Albert Einstein and the Theory of Relativity.

Dr. Edelstein, who is a second homeowner in Monterey, has been a docent at the American Museum of Natural History (home of the Hayden Planetarium), explaining astronomy and cosmology to visitors for the past nine years, and has taught adult education in these subjects at the Pearl River High School and the Rockland County Division of Long Island University.

He will talk about Einstein the person, Einstein the scientist, and how he came to his remarkable insights into Special and General Relativity. With an understanding of the principles of Relativity, attendees will realize why Albert Einstein is considered the outstanding physicist of the twentieth century, and probably the most outstanding physicist since Isaac Newton.

The first 2009–2010 Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, October 21, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman and Kyle Pierce

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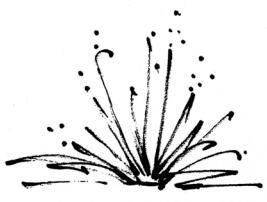

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Firemen's Ball October 17

Big Band, Good Food, Smooth Dancing

The sound of the big bands, the taste of good food, ballroom dancing, and lively conversation is the summary of the annual Fireman's Ball in Monterey. Once a year, the firehouse is transformed, by a dedicated group of volunteers, into a dance hall suitable for some of the counties most graceful ballroom dancers. The Monterey Fire Company, Ltd., puts on the ball as a chance to give back to those who support them as well as inviting our neighboring firefighters to come celebrate another successful year. We have been graced in the past with fire chiefs from throughout the county, as well as some high-ranking politicians. Thanks must be given to the many whose efforts make this possible, including the ball committee, the catering crew, the firefighters and their spouses, and the Chief, whose efforts to promote ballroom dancing has given the town this unique experience.

Special thanks to those who have helped us to enhance the fire station, as we try to make it both a base of operations and a suitable place for community events.

This year's theme of 1930s-period dress promises to add another level of appeal for those who can make it on October 17, with hors d oeuvres at 6 p.m. and dinner served at 7 p.m. This year the band will be the Carlin Orchestra and our host will be department members Shawn Tryon and his wife Carly Detterman.

For those of you who haven't been to the ball, find your best outfit, get yourself some tickets, and come enjoy a great meal while meeting the crew of your hometown department. Who knows whom you may find yourself dancing next to, a Pittsfield Fire Chief or a State Representative? Either way consider this a personal invitation to attend.

Board of Health News

GET YOUR FLU SHOTS EARLY. This year there are two separate flu viruses to worry about. If you want to be protected against both you will need two separate vaccines.

The Monterey Board of Health, along with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and your local physicians, recommend getting your regular seasonal flu vaccine early this year, hopefully by the end of October. Your primary care physician (local doctor) should be able to provide you with a vaccine. For those who choose, there is a regular seasonal flu vaccine clinic scheduled for Friday, October 9, at the Monterey Town Hall through the Berkshire VNA from 2:30–3:30 p.m. You must be 18 years or older. There is no fee for Mass Health and Medicare participants if you bring your card. Others will be charged a $22.00 fee. Your insurance company might reimburse you. Wear short sleeves.

Vaccine for the second flu virus, the H1N1 (also called the Swine Flu), will be available in limited quantities beginning in October. At this time the Monterey BOH is anticipating there will NOT be a need to open the Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) to distribute/administer the vaccine. It is hoped that flu clinics similar those for the seasonal flu and your primary physician will be sufficient. Some plans are being made to also vaccinate students in their schools.

Fortunately, the H1N1 flu virus, while potentially fatal, has not proven to be more dangerous than the usual seasonal flu. It does appear, however, to be more problematic in younger individuals. While the threat is real, there is no need to panic. Transmission of H1N1 is by similar fashion to that of the seasonal influenza virus (and common cold viruses), and good hygiene, as well as staying at home if you are infected, should reduce transmission. More information on the flu viruses and how to cope with them is available in pamphlets in the foyer at the Monterey Town Hall and on several websites you can visit: MDPH Flu Website: www.mass.gov/dph/flu; US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Flu Website: www.cdc.gov/flu.

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SBRSD School Committee to Meet in Monterey Oct. 15

The Southern Berkshire Regional District School Committee will meet on Thursday, October 15, at 6 p.m. at the Monterey School on Main Road. The public is invited to attend.

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Proposals Due for Monterey Cultural Council Grants

This year, the Monterey Cultural Council will distribute about $4,000 in grants to organizations, schools, and individuals to support cultural activities in and near Monterey. Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science projects must be postmarked by October 15.

The grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities, including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures. The Cultural Council will also consider funding proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, which provides subsidies for school-age children to attend cultural field trips.

The all-volunteer, Select Board–appointed Monterey Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The Local Cultural Council Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

"Numero Seis"—Steadman Pond, by Bruce McAlister, winner in the Waterscape Category of the Monterey Cultural Council's recent Photo Contest Exhibition.

A few of the many previously funded projects were:

- Bidwell House Museum—2009 Heritage Crafts Workshops;
- Monterey General Store—Local Singer/Songwriter Project;
- Monterey Public Library—Children's Summer Programming;
- Workshop by John Root on Edible Wild Plants Of The Forest.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the Monterey Cultural Council, contact John Heffernan, 413-644-9235; jeh111@juno.com.

Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp.

Remember the October 15 postmark deadline!

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Calling All Cribbage Players

The Monterey General Store is open to hosting the first annual Monterey Cribbage Tournament if enough people are interested. The tournament will take place at the General Store on a Saturday to be announced.

A $25 entry fee will be collected from each player. A percentage of the gate (20 percent) would go to the General Store to use the space. The remainder would be divided into cash prizes for first place (50 percent), second place (20 percent), and third place (10 percent).

Interested cribbage players should contact Marshall Messer of 70 Cronk Road, Monterey; email: saletan@earthlink.net. The *Monterey News* will publish additional details as they are available.

— Marshall Messer

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Rededication of Diane's Trail Bridge

Thanks to all who have inquired about the new bridge on Diane's Trail off Curtis Road on Gould Farm. We will be holding a ceremony for the rededication of Diane's Bridge on October 3 at 10:00 a.m., with refreshments to follow. Look for parking signs off Curtis Road.

Of course, we are also hoping that folks will use the trail regularly, as in the past, and rediscover the wonders of a trail and commentary in a wet area chock full of beavers (look for their busy tracks in the new silt on parts of the trail along Rawson Brook, which the new bridge spans).

Those who have an interest in the work on this trail, which includes the many smaller bog and span bridges along it, might wish at some point to consider a donation to Gould Farm's "Friends of Diane's Trail."

We have been so very fortunate to have received many donations. There was also a State Stewardship Grant in 1997 to supplement the considerable investment by Gould Farm for the trail on behalf of the public. The trail was kept up and expanded and the old weatherworn bridge replaced with this lovely new one. It was designed and largely built by the volunteer labor of Jon Greene of Great Barrington, with considerable help from others.

Hope to see you there.

— Bob Rausch

Monterey Library Notes

Moxie the reading dog will be available Saturday, October 10, at 10 and 10:20 a.m. for beginning readers—come and see kids happy to read to a very well behaved dog. Barbara Wolf-Dorlester has a new website showcasing her therapy dog; find the link on the Monterey Library web page of the town website, www.montereyma.gov.

The adult book group has been meeting and has recently read *Olive Kittredge* and *Help*. The next meeting will be the last Monday in October, the 26th, at 7 p.m. in the library. The book to read for that discussion is *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld. There's plenty of time to order it on CWMARS! Anyone interested is welcome to come.

The youth book discussion group has started up again and there is room for some new members. The oldest members are in high school and the youngest have just started reading independently. At their monthly meeting they discuss a chosen book. The end-of-the-year party includes pizza and ice cream from the Monterey General Store before the members perform poetry and talent show acts. Fun for kids of all ages—lively discussions and wild Mad libs every meeting! If interested call Franny Huberman at 528-5414.

For those of you who couldn't get the museum passes during the busy summer months, now is a great time to go to museums free without having to fight the crowds. Check out the Monterey Library web page for details of which passes we have and what they will do for our patrons.

The Friends of the Monterey Library are meeting Monday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m. for a brief meeting. There will be discussion of ways to help the library as well as reviewing the membership drive. Thanks to all who have joined and shown they want to continue to improve our library services. The response has been terrific, and the benefits to the library, such as the pass to the Berkshire Botanical Garden, have been felt already!

Finally—a big thanks to the Monterey General Store for donating ice cream to the children's summer reading program participants. A lot of good ice cream was earned, and the kids all had fun doing it! Thanks also go to the Monterey Library Trustees and the Monterey Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, for sponsoring our Saturday morning programming for kids. We had some of the best performances ever. The performers love to come to Monterey because our patrons join in and participate.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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350: Join Us on October 24

I've been thinking about Bonner McAllester's frogs. In last month's *Monterey News*, Bonner wrote about finding deformed frogs in her pond for the first time this year. Much has been written about the effects of climate changes on amphibians in recent years, but I didn't think the little critters had been affected in our area. Until now. Since last month I've looked at the frogs in my miniscule pond many times, relieved to find no such oddities. But that doesn't make me feel much better about the climatic changes we see all around us, and the imminent risks to our planet and our way of life.

After jawing about this for years, I've finally decided to build a (tiny) greenhouse. Mind you, there is every conceivable kind of greenhouse kit imaginable online that can be purchased anywhere from $1,000 to $20,000 or more. Most of them, except for the glass-covered conservatories (maybe in another lifetime), suffer from the same defect. They are glazed with polycarbonate sheets. Polycarbonate contains BPA, which we now know is an endocrine-system disrupter. Not in my soil! So I'm building one out of 2-by-4s treated with a nontoxic preservative and covered with polyethylene plastic. God forbid someone finds out that polyethylene is toxic, too, but it seems okay for now.

But I digress. Why build a greenhouse? Because it finally occurred to me that this summer's rain may not be an aberration. There's a reason why the Northeast may continue to get hit with especially wet summers. Warmer air holds more moisture, so light rains turn into big storms; big storms turn into monsoons, and so on. Global warming brings with it greater extremes of weather. Here in rural Massachusetts we may not be affected directly by rising seas and melting icecaps, but we may see our growing season change markedly. My own harvest has proved somewhat disappointing, not dire, but not what I was hoping for. The squash patch yielded fewer winter squash than expected. The tomatoes got yanked because of late blight, which spread more easily in the damp air. Carrots and lettuces did okay, but the corn, potatoes, and broccoli all needed better weather. Hence the greenhouse. It's hardly a solution to all these issues, but at least I could get a little edge on the climatic vagaries to come.

Which brings us to the real subject of this article. A little greenhouse in the woods is a nice luxury to contemplate. What about the rest of people on the planet who don't have even that option? No simple answers will suffice, but there are some things we can do.

More and more I have become convinced, along with many others, that the only real answer to global warming lies in political action. We need the world's governments to step up to the plate here and take the macro-actions necessary to curb carbon emissions. Now, I compost, recycle, use only compact fluorescents, heat my house with a pellet stove, buy as little consumer junk as possible, etc., etc. While helpful, these actions are easily overwhelmed by the big polluters. Pop Quiz: Do you know what entity is the world's biggest polluter? The U.S. Department of Defense. Try throwing a few recycled plastic bottles at that.

Stay with me here, there is optimism just around the corner. This December, the countries of our world will get another chance to make meaningful progress. The Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen will try to produce an agreement to reduce global carbon emissions. Let's hope they do. Let's also hope that they focus on the right goals.

This is where "350" comes in. In order to stabilize our climate, many scientists have now concluded that our atmosphere cannot contain more than 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide. We are already over that benchmark—at 389 ppm—and climbing fast. Within a very few years it will be too late to avoid major changes to all the natural elements of our biosphere and thus to us. Now, I get a little exercised about mass

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species extinction, but that may not be your thing. Just try to remember, as the biologist E. O. Wilson has said, that humans need every living plant and animal species to survive in order to maintain anything like a balanced ecosystem. That won't happen, but we can work to slow this great tide of extinction. Recognizing that climate change is a human rights issue has motivated many people. Whatever moves you, find it, because time is indeed running out to effect meaningful change. Your efforts are needed.

One great place to start is with a day of climate action planned for October 24. The group 350.org has asked for people to come together on that day to bring the idea of 350 ppm as a goal to the attention of as many people in the world as possible. The timing is critical because of the Copenhagen meeting in December. We want to impress upon the attendees the importance of adopting this ambitious goal for carbon dioxide reduction. It's a simple enough project—get a group of people together and take a picture of us all illustrating the number 350. It can be done with bicycles, shoes, paint, people, you name it. All of these pictures will then circulate on the Internet, demonstrating our wishes to Copenhagen.

Over fifteen hundred such groups are planned all over the world for October 24. Can we do one here? At this writing have some of us have plans here in Monterey to gather on the Meetinghouse steps at 11 a.m. with signs and to show the film about a past Monterey effort to save the planet, *Monterey Lights the Way* (see next column), and I sure want to see if we can contribute one of those pictures. All other ideas are welcome—just write to me at ruthgreen7@verizon.com. If enough people are interested, we can make it happen. I'll post a notice on the bulletin board at the General Store. Let's do it for Bonner's frogs.

— Ruth Green

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Monterey Retro Movie: We were all so young, so energy conserving!

As part of the October 24th 350 Day Actions in Monterey, we will be showing the 1980 documentary *Monterey Lights the Way* in a special one-time Saturday matinee in the Monterey Church, at 1:00 p.m. The film, by Mickey Friedman and John MacGruer, presents Monterey in the glory of its "Energy Project," which culminated in an international (US and Canada) competition with ten other towns to see who could reduce their electricity use the most. The contest took place over three days on the fourth weekend in October 1980. Everyone in town took part.

Some of us, still able to totter around, remember the project, the contest. We worked on it for months and months beforehand, getting in shape for energy-use reduction. Energy savings kits were passed out in paper bags: the candles, the 40-watt bulbs. People rode to town on horseback to get the mail and take it home for themselves and their neighbors. It was never just about electricity, and it certainly was a time to remember, with all stripes of neighbors pitching in. We had T-shirts, little flags, neighbors in hardhats putting up anemometers to see what potential there was in town for wind power.

You gotta see this movie, with such stars of the silver screen as Milly Walsh, Ray and Leigh Tryon, Mickey Friedman, Peter Murkett, Michele Miller, Ellen Pearson, who was editor of the *Monterey News* at the time, and her two youngsters, Kirven and Ennis Blount. We were all so young, so skinny. You'll catch glimpses of many more at the I Love Monterey Day Parade, the Community Dinner, the auction, the nuclear disarmament and peace rally.

This film is not just about the Monterey Energy Project; it is about our town in 1980, back in the day. How the hippies and the rednecks pulled together to come in second in the international contest, and first in the US. By the way, Monterey had already reduced its electricity use 15 percent before the contest began. Then over the three-day blackout that October weekend, we reduced it another 15 percent.

The film was made by Blue Sky Productions, of Great Barrington. It will be available soon on DVD at the Monterey Library, but currently only exists on videocassette. This is a predigital movie. You will even see a typewriter in one or two scenes.

If you want more information, call me: 528-9385.

— Bonner McAllester

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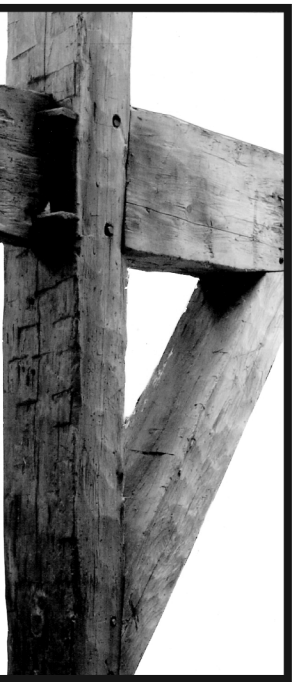

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Roadside Store Temporarily Closed

Gould Farm's Roadside Store and Café on Route 23 in Monterey is temporarily closed for business. The decision was made last month following some staffing changes precipitating a valuable opportunity for the Farm to take stock and review the Roadside's current therapeutic work program—one of eight that exist on the Farm and the only one where Guests have the opportunity to interact directly with the general public. The plan is to reopen soon in a reconfigured model that will allow for a more positive work experience for Guests as well as to better serve the Roadside's loyal customers.

Suggestions are being reviewed that would enhance the business model, which calls for a unique blend of being first and foremost a beneficial work program for the Farm's Guests and second a business open to the public. As Mary Brant, executive director, commented recently, "The Roadside is there to serve our Guests as part of their treatment at Gould Farm—not the Guests working to support the commercial operation of a business."

Gould Farm is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help adults living with mental illness begin to rebuild and regain their lives. The Farm has been very fortunate in having the Roadside operate as a successful work program and café for over 30 years. This part of the Farm's work program provides a key opportunity for the Farm's Guests to work in a "real-life" work setting with the general public where job and personal coping skills such as working under pressure, multitasking, interacting with customers, and handling money using a computerized cash register are emphasized.

Over the years the Roadside has seen increased foot traffic due to the appeal of its operation as both an eating spot and a place that people patronize in support of the Farm's mission. The temporary closing provides an opportunity to explore and improve the work program and also satisfy customer demand.

Gould Farm thanks everyone for their continued patience and support and looks forward to keeping the community informed of its progress.

— Sally Evans

Bidwell House Events

Pumpkin Fest October 10

The Third Annual Pumpkin Fest and Heirloom Garden Harvest will be held as a free family event at the Bidwell House Museum on Saturday, October 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by the Garden Angels, volunteers who maintain the flower and heritage vegetable gardens under the direction of Ruth Green, the event promises fun for the entire family. Featured activities include tastings of pumpkin recipes, Icelandic pony rides, games, and face painting.

Youngsters will be provided with materials for decorating a pumpkin and will be invited to take their decorated pumpkin home to help celebrate the fall foliage season. The grounds as always will be open for walks and exploration. The ongoing exhibit in the red barn, Early Farm and Garden Tools, curated by Chris Caccamo, will be open to the public free of charge. Come and see the old apple press, which celebrates the historic apple orchards on the Bidwell property. Heritage seeds and an array of newly acquired maple sugaring taps will be on display.

For more information on museum events, please call 413-528-688 or visit www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Annual Meeting House Trail Walk

A Columbus Day closing event will be held at the Bidwell House on Monday, October 12, at 10 a.m. George Emmons, local historian, author, and trustee of the museum, will lead a walk to the historic first meetinghouse where the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell preached sermons, still held in the original form in the Bidwell archives. In 1928, the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) placed a marker commemorating the site, which was once the demographic center of Tyringham and Monterey in the mid-eighteenth century.

In observation of October as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archaeology Month, Emmons will also lead visitors to nearby Indian cairns on the property and answer questions related to other cairns in southern Berkshire County.

Please bring walking shoes and water for this 1 1/2-hour walk. On returning to the museum, visitors are invited to join the museum board and staff for refreshments in celebration of the Reverend Bidwell's birthday. Donations of $10 for members, $15 for nonmembers will be accepted. Call 413-528-6888 for more information.

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Monterey Meets Ngalla

A boy challenges the chief of the village in a game of Songo during Day of the African Child Work Camp in Ngalla, Cameroon.

In the village of Ngalla and throughout Africa, in fact throughout most of the world, some version of this "count and capture" game is played. In Ngalla the game is called *Songo*. It is a traditional and popular game of mathematical skill and strategy, played by young and old, and as we can see in the photo above, it draws a big crowd, especially when the chief of the village accepts a challenge from a young and agile mind. In Ngalla, the game is played with seventy beans that are equally distributed in fourteen compartments of a game board. The ultimate object of the game is to capture all of the opponent's beans on the winner's side of the board. The board in this picture looks rather official, but it could simply be made from egg cartons, depressions scratched into the earth, or carved from a slab of wood; and pebbles, coins, or seeds could substitute for the beans.

For history buffs, a little online research revealed that this ancient game originated in Egypt sometime between the fifteenth and eleventh centuries BC. It traveled from Egypt to Africa and the Middle East, and with the spread of Muslim culture it emerged in India, Ceylon, Malaya, Indonesia, the Philippines, and China. From Africa, the game followed slave trade to the Caribbean, and more recently, it has become known in Europe and the Americas.

Apparently every culture, and subculture, has its own version of this game, and we will try to master the Ngalla version when Ruth visits Monterey in November. Maybe we'll find someone to challenge her.

The *Monterey Meets Ngalla People to People Project* is a collaborative effort between the people of Monterey, the people of Ngalla, Cameroon, the Center for Peace Through Culture, African Action on AIDS, and the Monterey Meets Ngalla Committee. For more information contact Kathie Frome, 528-2516.

— Kathie Frome

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Leuchs and Lukeman Studio Open Oct. 3 & 4

The first weekend in October, Catherine Leuchs Bohrman (who grew up in Monterey), a bronze and stone sculptor, will be working in her family's studio at 3 Lukeman Lane in Stockbridge (near the corner of Rt. 102 and Rt. 183). She invites friends and interested art enthusiasts to visit between 10am and 5pm.

The studio has been used by three generations of the family. It was built in 1908 by sculptor Augustus Lukeman as a summer studio, just up the road from his friend and colleague Daniel Chester French's studio. Lukeman's noted works include such commissions as the granite monument of Stone Mountain in Atlanta and the Soldiers & Sailors Monument on Rt. 7 in Pittsfield. His portfolios and personal letters can be seen at the American Archives, Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. After his death, his niece inherited the property and her husband, stained-glass-artisan Frederick Leuchs (of Monterey) worked there. Like Lukeman, Fred was a prolific artist. His work can be seen locally at The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and St. Paul's Church in Stockbridge. After his death, one of his five daughters, Catherine, a sculptor, has used the studio as a retreat to escape and sculpt in this beautiful and unique location.

Fred Leuchs' widow, Marie Leuchs, and daughter Paula Moats currently live in Monterey, as well as several nephews and nieces. For more information, please call: 413-528-0244 or email sculpture@bohrman.com.

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Monterey Free Film Oct. 17 *Blind Spot*

Our next Monterey Movie will be *Blind Spot*, a 2008 documentary about the "blind spot" many of us experience currently regarding the crash that could kill us all: the twin terrors of Peak Oil and Climate Crisis.

The problem is framed as one of invisibility and denial. We hear from fifteen men and two women, the talking heads of the film (which also has scenery), who bring us good insights into the problems and its solutions, the first being recognition: how to make the invisible visible; also, how to muster the courage to hear what we don't want to hear. We are warned of the dangers of "one step at a time," as in: I changed my light bulbs, now things are okay (Derrick Jensen). We learn about the connection between the food we eat and overconsumption of petroleum and pollution of the air, earth, and water. One speaker tells us, "Modern agriculture is the use of land to convert petroleum into food."

The film is particularly timely in this month of global and local action on the part of the 350.org movement, building awareness of the fact that we have reached 385 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere. To survive we must reduce this to 350. This is the number, these are the buzz-digits. If you watch this movie you'll know what they mean.

Look around. Let's not let our "blind spot" kill us on the highway of life—and take the rest of life on earth with us.

The film is free, 1 hour 28 minutes long, and starts at 7:00 PM in the Meetinghouse basement on Saturday, October 17. Information: 528-9385 (Bonner McAllester).

Adult Softball Players Needed

The Monterey Softball Association needs additional adult players for Sunday softball every Sunday and holiday (including Columbus Day) at 10:30 a.m. (pregame warm-ups start at 9:30). The season begins in April and continues into late fall as long as the weather is good (last year we played into the second Sunday of November). Games are at Greene Park behind the town hall.

Construct Walk to Prevent Homelessness Oct 18

The Annual Walk to Prevent Homelessness, sponsored by Construct, Inc. will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2009 beginning with registration at Ski Butternut at 12:30 p.m. The Walk, starting at 1 p.m., will proceed down Route 23 and Great Barrington's Main Street, ending at the Construct office on Mahaiwe Street.

The Walk, in its Twenty-first year, has been the major source of funds for providing emergency assistance to individuals and families of south Berkshire County. Last year's Walk generated more than $50,000, but all that money had been given out by July 1 and since then many people have been desperately waiting for more money to be donated. As a result this year's goal is $60,000. As in prior years this money will be used to prevent foreclosures, evictions, utility shutoffs, medical prescriptions, food, transportation needs, and emergency motel stays. More than two hundred household received assistance since last year's Walk, thirty of them from Southern Berkshire School District. Construct attests to the fact that homelessness is not only an urban problem; it is very real in the beautiful Berkshires.

Construct, Inc. is a Berkshire United Way member. As a nonprofit shelter, housing, and life skills agency it has served as a safety net in south county for nearly forty years. For more information, call Construct, Inc., at 413-528-1985.

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Community Dialogue on Race Oct. 24

BRIDGE (Berkshire Resources for the Integration of Diverse Groups and Education) addresses the issues of integrating multicultural communities in our rural area. We promote mutual understanding and acceptance among diverse groups by serving as a resource to both local institutions and clients. We attempt to serve as catalysts for change. BRIDGE offers a three-pronged approach to integrating multiculturalism into the community. First, we provide direct service by language classes, workforce language classes and curriculum consulting, translation and interpreting services, and advocacy for clients wherever a cultural service gap lies. Second, we provide monthly Multicultural Presentations, community events to highlight any multicultural community and spotlight issues relevant to that community. These events also are celebrations of the culture including food, artistic presentations, lectures, and more. Third, BRIDGE provides Cultural Competency Training and Workforce Development for municipal services, private businesses, hospitals, schools, and more. We have also partnered with the Berkshire Community College to offer Cultural Competency Workshops.

BRIDGE has spearheaded a Multicultural Task Force in the Berkshires for the purpose of creating a Community Dialog on Race. The Multicultural Task Force was developed in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice in response to a local need for community talks on racial issues. The Task Force members include many highly respected community leaders such as local chiefs of police, a town manager, the superintendent of a local school system, executive directors of local nonprofits, and the clergy. BRIDGE and the Task Force have been meeting for six months at the Norman Rockwell Museum to explore issues of cultural competency in our area as they relate to our various professional spheres.

BRIDGE and the Multicultural Task Force will be hosting the first public Community Dialogue, entitled "Towards Racial Justice in the Berkshires: Educational, Economic and Social Equity," on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 3 to 7:30 p.m. at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox. The speakers and dialogue portion of the program will run from 3–5:30 p.m., followed by a multicultural dinner from 6–7:30, featuring authentic multicultural dishes and entertainment.

Preregistration is required through BRIDGE. For more information, please email Gwendolyn@multiculturalbridge.org or call 413-274-1001.

— Gwendolyn Hampton VanSant
Executive Director, BRIDGE

Otis Cultural Council Grant Applications

The Otis Cultural Council is now accepting applications for grants for the 2009–2010 funding cycle. These grants are funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to enable communities to hire artists of all genre for performances and/or workshops that enhance the community. This funding cycle coincides with the Town of Otis bicentennial year and we look forward to reviewing applications that can be incorporated into this celebration as well as enrich our community throughout the year. All Massachusetts artists and musicians are encouraged to apply.

Applications for grants, as well as for PASS (student field trip tickets), are available online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp and at the Otis Town Hall, as well as on the Otis website, www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil, and must be mailed to the Otis Cultural Council, Otis Town Hall, Box 237, Otis MA 01253, postmarked no later than October 15, 2009.

For further information, please call Arlene Tolopko (269-0220), Chair, OCC, or email Otis-cc@hotmail.com.

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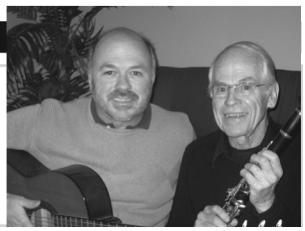

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Sandisfield Arts Center October Events

Movies, music, and art are scheduled throughout October at the Sandisfield Arts Center. The historic building was once a Baptist Meeting House and orthodox synagogue, and is now home to year-round cultural and educational programming.

The Friday night film series is in full swing continuing on October 2 with Truffaut's *Stolen Kisses*. Other films include *The Widow of St. Pierre* on October 9, *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* on October 16, *Bed and Board* on October 23, and *Focus* on October 30. Each film starts at 7:30 p.m. and is hosted by a local film enthusiast: author Simon Winchester, filmmaker Diego Ongaro, or naturalist Bonner McAllester.

On Saturday, October 3, the work of artist Erica Crofut will be on display with a reception from 4–6 p.m. The exhibit will run through November 1.

Guitarist Joel Brown returns to the Sandisfield Arts Center on October 17 at 8 p.m., this time with his father, Frank Brown, on clarinet. Father and son will present an evening of jazz, classical, and beyond. Tickets are $20.

For more information and directions, visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org or call 413-258-4100.

October Events in the Hill Towns

Moose in Our Midst: A Researcher's Report From the Field
Tuesday, October 6, 7–9 p.m., Peru Town Hall

Moose are back in Massachusetts! Come hear from UMass researchers about their field studies collaring moose, and what they've learned about moose movements, habitat use, interaction with roads and development, and how the moose are coping with the higher temperatures at the southern edge of their range. Free. Contact the Highland Communities Initiative at 413-268-8219 to preregister.

The Puzzle of New England's Predators,
Wednesday, October 21, 7–9 p.m., Otis Town Hall

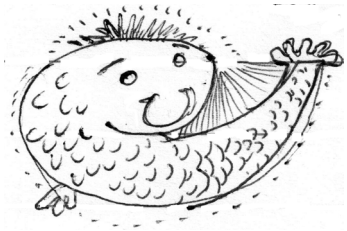
Join HCI and John Foster of the New England Naturalist Training Center for a fascinating look at our local predators like coyote, fisher, and bobcat. Through slide images and interactive discussion, we'll learn about their habitats and habits, and debunk common myths about these elusive animals. Free. Contact the Highland Communities Initiative at 413-268-8219 to preregister.

The Fall Colors of Petticoat Hill
Sunday, October 25, 1–3 p.m., Petticoat Hill Reservation, Williamsburg

Hike a three-mile moderate loop trail with naturalist Aimee Gelinas of www.tamarackhollow.com. Learn how to identify plants, trees and shrubs cloaked in their fall colors. Trustees members free, Nonmembers $5. Call The Trustees of Reservations at 413-532-1631 x13 or email pvregion@ttor.org to preregister or for more information.

Tour the William Cullen Bryant Homestead
Saturdays and Sundays through Columbus Day, 1–5 p.m. 207 Bryant Road, Cummington

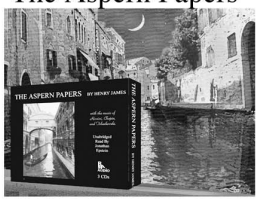
Explore this National Historic Landmark, the ancestral home of the great nineteenth-century poet, newspaperman, and essayist, and wander the grounds and trails above the Westfield River. Trustees of Reservations members FREE. Nonmembers: Adult $6; Child $3. Call 413-532-1631 x13 on weekdays or 413-634-2244 on weekends for information.



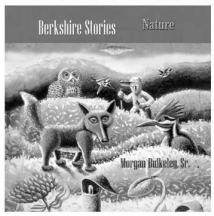
Audio for the Refined Ear

Berkshire Media Artists

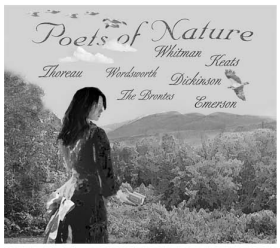
The Aspern Papers



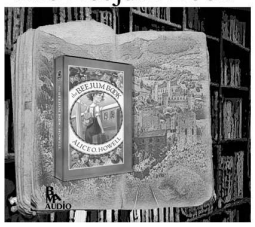
Berkshire Stories



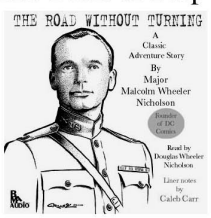
Poets of Nature



The Beejum Book



The Birth of Pulp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as though

goldenrod everywhere abundant
bright, but hardly gay
sad herald of the fading day:
first the flame, then rust triumphant!

but brave beside the window
a hundred hands clinging tight
holding on with all her might
to summer, blue as heaven, as though . . .

— Boney Oscar

Myself when young

Dry-eyed a full night
and a day
only the bitter stinging
when I think of you –
Not so the heavens
which at the sound of your name
have burst into tears.

— A. O. Howell

The Educated Old Colleen County Mayo

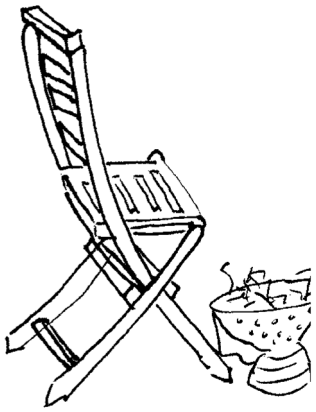
I have drunk a drink
to ugliness
to die from its poison
to redeem it
if I could –
I am writing on my petticoat
because I have no paper
then I can wear my loss
and its words will cover
its place
the letters like time schedules
to never.

— A. O. Howell

On Species-Centricity

I think that I shall never see
a person bigger than a tree,
and that is why the trees must fall,
so that we persons can feel tall.

— Kit Patten



One Veteran's Story

Editor's Note: After my neighbor Felix Zagurski died in July, I realized that although I knew he was a veteran of World War II, I did not know his story. I regret not knowing it. It occurred to me that there are other World War II veterans in our community whose stories I, and probably others of their neighbors, do not know. I asked Dean Amidon to help in collecting the veterans' stories. Morton Sternberg graciously agreed to be the first. I hope other veterans will follow his lead and contact me (528-4347) or Dean about submitting their recollections. We will all be the richer for it. — WM

I enlisted in the Army Corp in November 1943, wanting to become an Ace Fighter Pilot. Instead, after five months of training I received my wings as a bombardier and at once became an officer and a gentleman. I was nineteen.

Next, in Topeka, Kansas, I joined nine others made up of six gunners, a pilot, a copilot, and a navigator. We trained as a combat crew for five months in four-engine B-24 bombers. At the end we were given our own B-24. Following tradition, we had it painted with a cartoon figure and a name, "Purple Shaft." Two days later we flew from Topeka to Italy via Maine, Newfoundland, the Azores, and Morocco.

Bombadier Mort Sternberg, Italy, 1944.

On Arrival in Italy, we then flew our plane the next morning to what would be our home base: the 724th Squadron, of the 451st Group, of the 40th wing of the 15th Air Force. We were given a four-man tent that we officers were to erect in an olive orchard. Tent furnishings for each of us were one cot, one mattress cover, and two blankets.

Meeting with our squadron veterans quickly educated us to the realities of everyday living and of combat. To make the tent livable, we had to hunt in scrap piles for an "abandoned" wing tank to use as a water tank, along with tubing and valves from wrecked planes; two five-gallon tanks to be welded together for a stove for winter; a jerry tank of "borrowed" aviation gasoline for fuel; scrap wood for flooring and shelving, etc. Then the news came that the number of combat missions we must fly had recently been increased from twenty-five to thirty-five and that the most heavily defended target would be Vienna.

I had had two restless nights, which I had reluctantly attributed to a small depletion of my usual sense of youthful immortality. I soon found that the cause was my tent-boy. I had told him to fill my mattress cover with straw for a proper pillow. His bonus for me was to also stuff it with the biggest lizard he could find.

After two weeks of settling in, we were notified that we would fly our first combat mission the next morning. We were awakened at 5:00 a.m. to attend the briefing, where we learned that our target was an oil refinery outside of Vienna.

On October 13, 1944, takeoff with our squadron of six planes was 8:00 a.m. By 9:30 we had rendezvoused at 8,000 feet with our group and cruised over the Adriatic toward the target. At 12:30 we were approaching the Initial Point (IP), where we banked sharply for a 90° turn into the Straight & Level ten-minute run

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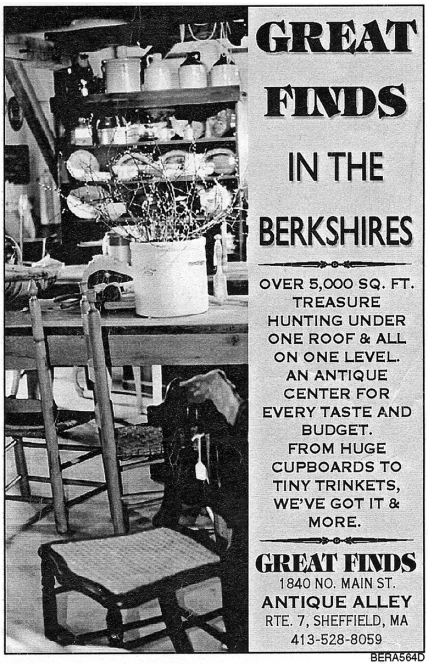
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over the target. For the first two minutes the sky above was cloudless, but straight ahead at our altitude of 26,000 feet the sky was alive with bursting flak. The formation ahead of us, six B-24s from Able Flight, caught their fire. Two of their planes were spinning down out of control I have no record of their fate, but our crew saw several chutes deployed.

At that moment it was our turn to fly the next eight minutes through flak to the target. As bombardier I had control of flight direction from the plane's autopilot through my Norden bombsight. I made myself oblivious to the flak by fixing the plane on target. When the eight 500-pound bombs released. I gave the words "bombs away" over the intercom to the crew. The pilot took manual control and evasive action to get out of range of the flak. We returned to our base without injury to our crew or damage to the plane although one of the planes in our formation of six was brought down. I don't know if there were survivors.

That was my first combat mission, with only thirty-four combat missions left to finish before I would be sent back to the USA for reassignment. I could not have known then that I would return to fly six more missions to Vienna. They are included in my total of the thirty-three missions I flew before the war with Germany ended. By then my immortality was gone.

All of our crew finished our missions without physical injury, a rarity in my 724th Squadron. There were some unforgettable close calls:

On a bombing mission to Munich we lost one of the four engines to flak. The pilot gave the order "Prepare to Bailout." I snapped on my chute, helped the nose gunner out of his gun turret, and opened the nose wheel doors. My gunner, the navigator, and I got ready to jump. It was midwinter and I imagined that the Alps snow was at enormous depth and that their craggy rock outcroppings were needle-sharp. By jumping, I would die by smothering or impalement. I returned to sanity the instant that the pilot rescinded the order. He judged that we might have enough fuel to make it home. And with fighter planes covering, we did.

On another mission to Vienna flak caused the loss of an engine, and loss of a supercharger in another engine forced us to use a field on the small island of Vis off the coast of Croatia. This was an emergency airfield established by the British and defended by Tito's Partisans. We landed safely, but the next disabled plane to fly in was a P-38 on one engine that crash-landed, killing its pilot. After no more than three hours in Vis we were loaded into a DC-3 to fly us back to home base. Our celebration came to an abrupt end as the P-38 pilot's body was placed aboard.

On a bombing mission over Germany, flak severed hydraulic lines. It had no effect on flight controls. However, in testing out other systems the landing gears deployed, but did not lock. The locking device had a backup manual crank. Several attempts by our gunner/engineer at cranking failed. Trying to land with landing gears unlocked could likely be disastrous. The B-24 has high wings with the body suspended below. Crash landing on its belly invariably resulted in the body tearing apart. Finally, with the help of three of us on the crank we got a lock and a safe landing.

Our plane, "Purple Shaft," was scheduled to fly a combat mission with a pickup crew. There was a list of names from which the ten-member crew was to be chosen; my name was on the list, but I was not chosen. "Purple Shaft" was shot down over northern Italy, with no survivors.

There is hardly a day that I do not recall the two years in the service of my country. I think of all my fellow airmen who never returned and all who served without reservation in a war that was worthy of their courage and sacrifice.

— Morton Sternberg

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The Two-Hour Trade Plus Carbon Emissions

Today I walked to town carrying some potatoes. It's two miles each way, the first mile being through the woods, around the swamp, and uphill to the highway.

Here the cars go by fast. Dog and I stick to the shoulder, noticing the McDonald's wrappers, Pepsi cans, one plastic tooth-flossing device, and a bedraggled length of party ribbon. Or maybe from balloons.

There's more. Euonymus turning that unreal red, fat acorns on the pavement, G. Emmons busy in his yard. There's an old horse not expecting much, many shades of asters, a huge truck.

Truck is lost. Young driver with metal bits in unexpected places looking for an address. It is in New Marlborough, I tell him. He is put out by this. Well, so where am I now? I tell him and he says this is impossible. Furthermore the address he seeks is in Great Barrington according to his GPS. It turns out GPS relies heavily upon ZIP codes. This has the driver so turned around he believes Great Barrington to be up by Lake Garfield. We have a lively exchange which is something of a failure, but he turns that flatbed around very skillfully and heads off somewhere else with his few sacks of goods piled up behind the cab on that long trailer.

I pick up a bunch of tax bills at the PO and run into a poet I know who arrives on a "retro" (he says) motorcycle. Even when he gets his helmet and jacket off I don't recognize him at first. He says the last time we met was at an antiwar rally in Washington. I give him a copy of the *Monterey News* so he can read the poetry.

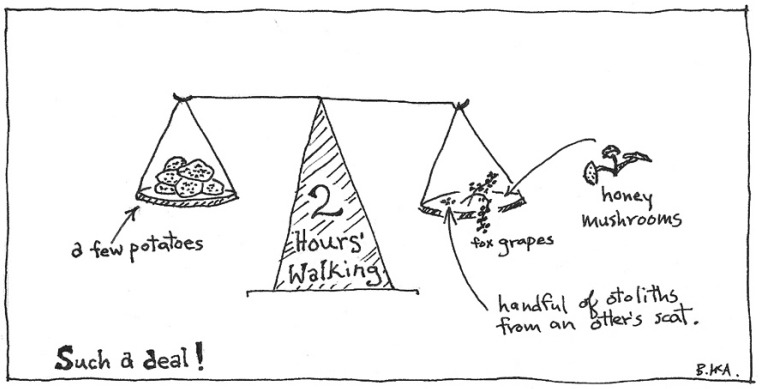
Heading home I leave off the potatoes for some friends, lightening the backpack. I find some very fat fox grapes and get purple juice on my pink T-shirt. Dog and I visit the modest old horse, which is stiff in his legs. I'm happy to get that horse smell. He is a beauty.

Back down into the woods we find mysterious scat by the beaver pond, orange with crayfish parts, also a few fish scales and many calcareous otoliths. These are balance devices from the inner ears of fish or crayfish. If you know how you can tell the age of the critter by looking at the layers on these little white weights, which are designed to sit on the bottom of a small ear chamber, thus indicating which way is down, or by deduction, up. They are indigestible but maybe more reliable than GPS.

In the deep woods there's a red maple fallen over. On the tipped-up roots I spot my first honey mushrooms of the year and am glad I have a hat in my pack. I pick about half the mushrooms and go on home, having been gone two hours, met a poet and a truck driver, traded a few potatoes for some wild grapes and a hatful of honey mushrooms.

This was a good walk and a good trade in all ways, but I can't say there were no carbon emissions. I was breathing the whole time.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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New Marlborough Traditional Carriage Day

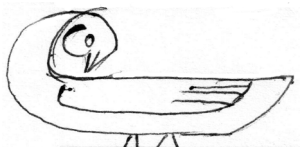
To culminate its 250th Anniversary celebration, the Town of New Marlborough is offering a Family Day of Traditional Carriage Driving. The event will take place on Sunday, October 11, along Route 57 in New Marlborough. Approximately eighteen horse drawn carriages—and a donkey cart—with drivers and passengers in traditional attire will drive over a scenic country route from the North Road field to Mepal Manor. This picturesque and historic family home was named in honor of the "Star of Mepal," a prize winning Hackney pony.

The Driving Day pays homage to the Hackney pony, which was first bred in this country in New Marlborough. In 1888, the first Hackneys were imported to the U.S. by Mr. Hildreth Bloodgood, who raised them at Cassilis Farm in New Marlborough, his country estate. This tradition was continued by his daughter, the late Mrs. Gladys Bloodgood Willets, and today by his great-granddaughters.

The October 11th celebratory gathering and special events will be held on Bloodgood family property. At the conclusion of their drive, drivers will lead their horses through a short demonstration course where they will be judged on their performance, condition, and attire in various classes. An announcer will explain the history and performances of driver, horse, and carriage during the demonstration event. Among the judges is Ms. Billie Hill, a great-granddaughter of Mr. Bloodgood. Her sister, Ms. Macy Hill, has donated a family trophy to be awarded as a prize. She will also drive for the occasion.

Mr. Rodney Hicks, board member of the American Hackney Horse Society and a breeder of Hackney ponies in the Berkshires, will give a pony demonstration. Lending his expertise to organizing this event is Mr. Harvey Waller of Orleton Farm, Stockbridge. Mr. Waller is president of the Carriage Association of America, president of the Colonial Carriage and Driving Society, and a member of the New York Coaching Club and the English Coaching Club of London.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., with the first carriage setting out at 10:00. General admission to this event is $5.00; children under 12 accompanied by an adult are free. Food will be available on the grounds. Children will be treated to free hayrides and hot dogs. For additional information, call: 413-229-0426.



Home Weatherizing Seminar in Tyringham

The Tyringham Green Committee is hosting a free seminar, "Weatherizing Your Home for Ultimate Savings," on Wednesday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tyringham Town Hall, Main Road, Tyringham. You are invited to hear Alan Silverstein, Co-Director of CET, illustrate how to reduce your home energy costs and understand and prevent heat loss in your home. There will be information on home energy efficiency programs and incentives that make money-saving improvements affordable.

The workshop will stress the importance of reducing heat usage by providing do-it-yourself techniques. There will be a slideshow to illustrate how the "thermal envelope" works in homes, a discussion on which improvements are most cost effective, and information on obtaining a no-cost home energy audit and assessing generous incentives to help reduce the cost of making improvements.

Light Refreshments will be available. For more information call 413-243-4176.

The Bidwell House Museum
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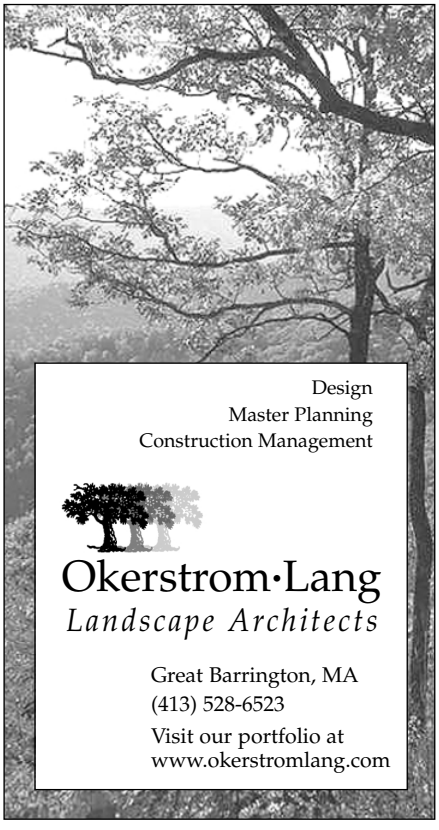

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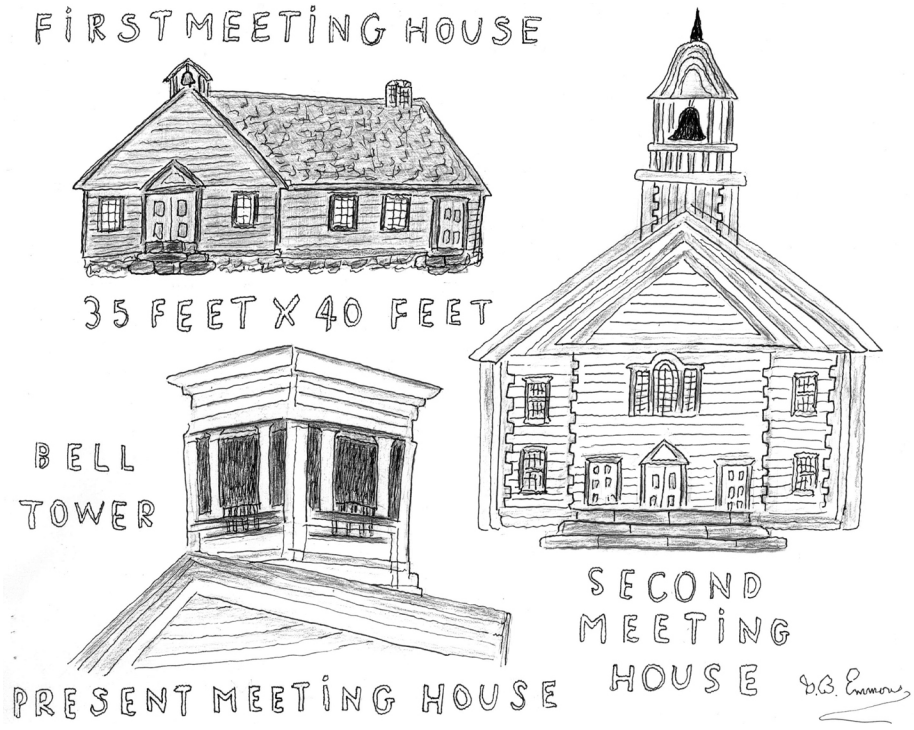
Monterey Meeting Houses



Today only one of three consecutive Meeting Houses built in Monterey is still standing, but each in its own day spiritually anchored a previous town center that was the focal point of community activity. According to Eloise Myers' *A Hinterland Settlement*, the first was a plain and barely functional building rudely framed, almost square, from about 1745. It was not improved during the following five years of Indian unrest and was never completely finished before it burned down in 1799. It stood on the brow of a hill about halfway around the Meeting House Trail from the Bidwell House Museum. If you come to my trail walk there on Columbus Day at 10 a.m., we will walk back in time more than two hundred and sixty years to the actual location of the foundation of the town's early Christian beginning.

According to a "History Of Congregational Society," an ancient documentary of this period, Adonijah Bidwell was pastor here for thirty-four years, during which one hundred and four persons were united with his church, three hundred and sixty children and adults were baptized, and one hundred and sixty-five couples were married. Bidwell died in 1784 and was laid to rest in the Old Burial Ground on Beartown Mountain Road near where the second Meeting House was to be located at the corner of Carrington Battelle Road, across from the Marshall Spring Bidwell house where Ian Jenkins and Maria Carvainis now live. Testimony that this then became the next town center is given by the immediate proximity of the Old Parade Ground, as well as another cemetery just up the road. Like the first center, this second one is bordered by traces of the Old Boston and Albany Post Road.

The extra half-mile from the first center proved to be a thorn in the side of Sunday walkers to church from Tyringham, and after some fifty years of inconvenience, they built their own Meeting House. Then Monterey built a third one even further away. So Township Number One was divided by location in 1847, with the present Greek Revival style Meeting House marking the new center of today. Its landmark significance is elaborately documented by both Kathy Page Wasiuk and Delight Wing Dodyk in *Monterey, A Local History*, available in the Monterey Library. On Sunday morning when the bell in the tower chimes to begin the religious service, it also tolls in the direction of the two foundations that have become historic, as well as our symbolic archeological "Rock Of Ages," where it all began so long ago!

— George B. Emmons

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Letter from Washington
Ends and Beginnings

My first day venturing into the world of DC as a college graduate was his very last. Walking up to my 5:30 a.m. alarm simultaneously brought me the news that Senator Kennedy had died just hours before. I'd chalked a restless night's sleep up to being a bit nervous for my first day at work. Later, I wondered if I'd somehow sensed it. As I left the house, in the early dawn to catch the 7:05 bus up to the Shady Grove metro stop, I found myself contemplating life's twists and turns. I do not generally put much stock in fate or destiny, but I had to marvel briefly at the symbolism that morning; one ending to such a life and a brand new beginning in my own.

Watching the coverage of his memorial and the tributes paid to him, I realized that I was having trouble trying to imagine the Senate without Ted Kennedy. I know that I am not alone. As he left DC for the last time on Saturday, headed for Arlington National Cemetery, I felt my throat close up—and a renewed sense of determination. He would want the work to continue. In one of his greatest speeches, he said, "For those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream will never die." Each day I go to work now, aware that my own journey is only just starting. If I can touch even a few of the number of peoples' lives that he did, for the better, then I'll consider myself lucky.

I am really just beginning to settle in here in my new job at the Roosevelt Institute Campus Network, the student policy division of the Roosevelt Institute. Each day is a new adventure, though it begins and ends in much the same way. Every morning there is the trip to the bus stop, the ride to the metro, the walk to work, and the delicious cup of coffee. The timing is almost exactly the same every day; public transportation can be frighteningly on time, until it isn't. I have my own key and I arrive at around 8:15 each morning. Next it is time to get the Mac office computer up and running, answer emails, check out the website to see what is newly posted and updated by our students and then I move onto my list.

Each evening I leave around the same time, head to the metro, and catch the bus down Redland Road. I am doing fairly well planning a weekly menu and preparing (or heating up) easy healthy meals every night. If I can just work in a run on the treadmill, then my routine is complete. Most evenings I have a show that I like to watch; the goal is to be finished and in my pajamas, with tea or a glass of wine by either eight or nine o'clock. Every Tuesday I go out with a friend, and then have dinner and watch NCIS with her family.

Tomorrow is a Monday morning, and my list is long for the week. Many of our chapters (the organization operates on college campuses across the country) ordered custom banners, a project that I'm almost done with, save for the confirmation emails I need to send out to twenty schools. This week, we need to figure out our publication calendar for our annual policy series "10 Ideas." We publish the best ten student ideas for six policy areas: defense & diplomacy, equal justice, economic development, education, health care, and energy and the environment. This project involves getting our policy team coordinating with our editorial board so everyone is on the same page for recruiting submissions, editing, and putting the publication together. Another big project this week is to begin redesigning our annual fundraiser. Each year we have an annual fundraiser mailer that goes out, and each year we've struggled without a process. My job as the national network coordinator is largely about designing and developing systems and processes that, once institutionalized, will make the office and organization run more smoothly.

A third project, more long term perhaps, is the development of our alumni network. I've designed a survey for our alumni to take from here on out, but we need to develop programming (provide opportunities for them), create a Roosevelt Alumni Council, boost up our alumni chapters in cities across the country, and do a better job integrating them into our network.

Ultimately, my job involves both strategizing for long term projects and dealing with day-to-day concerns. Although I have no tremendous website skills to speak of, I find myself being the point person for students to troubleshoot their website issues. I am also developing manuals and best-practice packets for the office, for our regional organizing team, and for our policy team. Each week brings something new, and almost every day (so far) I've finished feeling as though students have gotten answers and that I've done something useful. Not only do I continue to learn, but I look forward to what I do—and just out of college, I couldn't ask for anything more.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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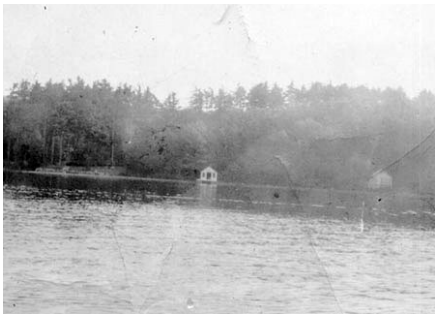
The Somers Men of Monterey

Here's a bit of Monterey history as it concerns two men who summered there years ago. My great-grandfather Arthur Sylvester Somers came to Monterey on the recommendations of two of his friends, Dr. Henry Groehl and Dr. John Horn, both of whom had homes in Monterey at the time. He purchased a large piece of property on Lake Garfield and decided to build a house at the top on Route 23, which he called Somerset (more commonly known as The Big House).

Somerset

It was a magnificent house, both inside and out. The property itself was beautiful, thickly wooded with pine trees and white birches, and it ran from the top of the hill on Route 23 down to Lake Garfield. There was a house with lake frontage at the bottom of the hill with plenty of room for a beach, a boathouse, and a lakeside cottage.



View of Somerset from Lake Garfield

In 1920, Arthur also purchased an estate at the other end of the lake, called Rock Ridge, for his son Andrew and daughter-in-law Ruth Edna McCormick. It had a beautiful view of the "other end" of Lake Garfield.

Lake Garfield from Rock Ridge

The house sat high on a hill overlooking the lake, and Ruth Edna felt it would be difficult to supervise children playing by the water, so they sold it without ever moving in, and instead took the house on Arthur's property, which had first been a fishing shack, then a dance hall, then finally, with a bit of renovation, became Glen Fern (more commonly called The Cottage). Today it is Lakeside Terrace Bed and Breakfast.

Glen Fern

Years later their eldest son Arthur (my father) bought back Rock Ridge, and he and my mother, Alice, lived there for many years, loving it and sharing it as "a place to celebrate life." They had by the way, had several other homes in town prior to this one. Before Rock Ridge, we lived down the road at Hupi Farm for many years. If you look closely at this picture you can see Arthur and Alice standing on the porch under the icicles!

Hupi Farm

My father loved Monterey with a passion, and his only criterion for a house was that it had to be located in the Village of Monterey. I understood that because I shared his love for Monterey.

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I recall its strong hold on me when I was a child. It was a "magic kingdom" from the moment I entered until I left at summer's end—the lake, the birch trees, the lupin field, the old orchard behind the Big House, the polliwog pond by the dump, the orange newts, the mushrooms, the "Indian pipes"(found out later they were horsetail rush), the ferns, the rocks, the roads, the waterfall behind the general store—everything around me held the curious magic of Monterey. It was a place like no other.

Rock Ridge

When my great-grandfather first arrived in Monterey, the only church was the Congregational Church in the village, and Arthur decided to build Our Lady of the Hills Chapel, so the town's Catholics wouldn't have to make the long trip into Great Barrington each Sunday for Mass. It remains open to this day during the summer months.

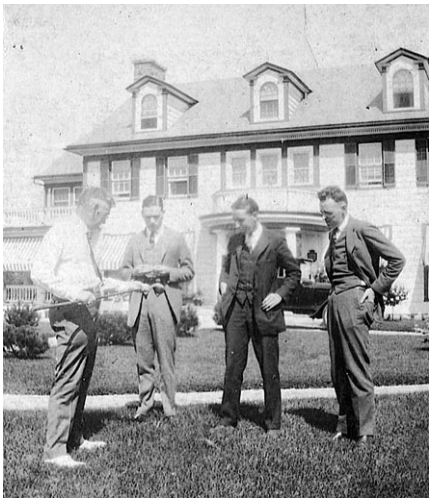
Our Lady of the Hills

A bit more about these Somers men who came to Monterey so long ago: Arthur Somers Sr. was a self-made Brooklyn businessman who started working in a tin factory when he was twelve years of age, and made his fortune at the firm Pfeiffer and Lavanburg (Atlantic Colorworks of Brooklyn), which was first bought out by Lavanburg and later by Somers.

Fred L. Lavanburg was a businessman and philanthropist who pioneered the idea of subsidized low-income housing at a time when such a thing did not exist. He conceived the idea of endowing a large-scale low-rent model housing project in NYC, hoping that his action would stimulate similar projects by private individuals as well as by municipal authorities. Although the job proved to be ultimately too enormous for private endowments, his experiment set the stage for the development of the great public housing programs in the thirties. He formed the Lavanburg Foundation (which still exists today) and acquired a site for the Lavanburg Homes on Goerck Street on the Lower East Side, one of the most notorious slum neighborhoods in the city. Arthur Somers, who was a member of the foundation's board of directors, helped oversee the running of The Homes after Fred's untimely death soon after the opening in 1927. There is a fascinating book called *Diary of a Housing Manager* by Abraham Goldfeld, which gives a detailed and delightful account of the first four years of the unique experiment. The buildings were later donated to the city in 1956, and they are now the home of The Urban Family Center for the accommodation and rehabilitation of temporarily homeless families.

Arthur was at the same time deeply involved in politics and local community affairs. He was a candidate for a congressional seat in 1893 and a candidate for sheriff of King's County in 1897. He was appointed to the Board of Education of the City of Brooklyn in 1892, on which he served consecutively for twenty-six years, holding office under nine mayors. Needless to say, he knew everybody. In 1924, Arthur became president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, and in 1926, he became the first president of the newly formed Long Island Chamber of Commerce. For a time he served on both boards simultaneously! His great love was for education, something that he had missed in his own life, and he was always stressing the importance of a good education for children. Today there is a school and a park playground in Brooklyn named after him (Arthur S. Somers I.S. 252 and the Arthur S. Somers Playground section of Lincoln Terrace Park).

Arthur married Virginia Lawrence, of the Lawrences of Long Island and Queens, and they had three sons: Andrew, Fred Lavanburg, and Arthur Alexander.



Arthur Somers and his sons Fred, Arthur, and Andrew

Arthur and his political friends decided that his oldest son, Andrew, who was only twenty-nine at the time, should run for Congress in order to beat a rival. They did not really expect a win, but to the surprise of all, he did win! The newspapers called him "the baby Congressman." Andrew Lawrence remained in Congress for twenty-five years until his death in 1949. As a Representative from Brooklyn, Somers had a large Jewish constituency.

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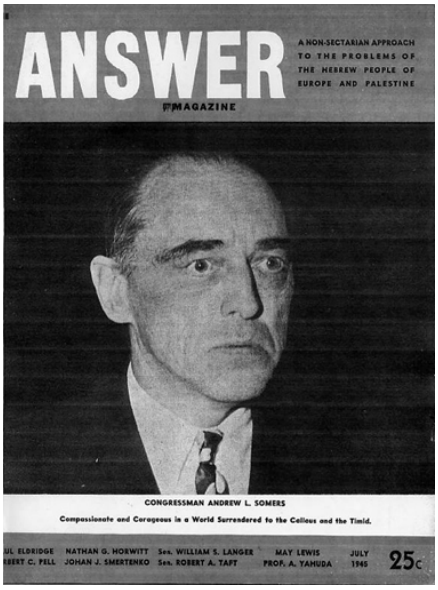
During World War II, the U.S. was tending to ignore Hitler's persecution of Jews abroad. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was doing nothing at the time, the policy being, "Let's worry about conquering Hitler first, then we can worry about the Jews." Sadly, the Jewish establishment was also turning a deaf ear to the wakeup calls of a few, with their stories about Jews being exterminated in large numbers by the Nazis. But Representative Andrew L. Somers was one who did listen, and not only listened, but had the courage to go against the tide of current opinion and speak out against the ongoing atrocities in order to raise consciousness. He sponsored a "Resolution Calling for Recognition of the Hebrew Nation," a proposal "to convert the sympathy of the American people into concrete action" that sought to achieve four points: "recognition for the Hebrew nation; establishment of its rights in international law; specific action in repatriating all Hebrews who desire to end their long exile and to return to their national territory in Palestine; and ultimate freedom and autonomy for that country, guaranteeing to all its citizens full civic political and legal rights and liberties." This Resolution paved the way for the formation of the State of Israel.

It must have been quite difficult for a Democratic congressman to go up against his party's popular president, FDR, and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Representative Andrew Lawrence Somers

for this he was honored last September at the Wyman Institute's 2008 Conference, "They Spoke Out." As a commentator at the time said, "He [Somers] took upon himself the burden of the fight for freedom for the Hebrew people, with all its unpleasant concomitants: being perpetually subject to pressure, being harassed by skeptics, anti-Semites, and professional Jews." Congressman Somers would also later confront President Truman on this same issue. When asked why he became involved, Somers explained: "This is not a problem of this or that Jewish group in this country; this is a problem of all of us."

The Wyman Institute's 2009 Conference in September centered around a similar theme, "The Failure to Bomb Auschwitz: History, Politics, Controversy." It was a landmark event, the first ever to focus in depth on the history and implications of the Allies' failure to bomb Auschwitz or the railways leading to it. Also discussed was a refutation by leading Holocaust scholars of a new book's claim that there is new evidence that President Franklin D. Roosevelt tried to help Jewish refugees from Nazism in the 1930s.

My grandfather Andrew died a premature death in 1949 due to stomach ulcers that had plagued him since childhood, which could easily have been cured with antibiotics had doctors known enough about it back then. Had he lived, with his integrity, his vision and his likability, who knows where his political career might have gone? As for the Israeli-Palestine question, I'm confident that if he were alive today, Andrew Somers would be an outspoken advocate of peace through a two-state solution, because above all he was concerned about human rights and justice for ALL—which would include the Palestinians as well as the Jews.

I'll always remember Monterey, and I hope Monterey remembers my family.

— Pamela Somers

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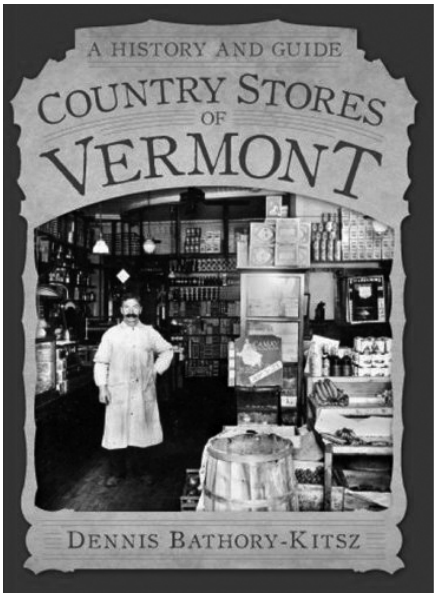
Book Review

Country Stores of Vermont: A History and Guide, by Dennis Bathory-Kitsz. (History Press, 2008). $14.99



In a nation where the largest private employer is Wal-Mart, it might be easy to overlook the small, locally owned country store. Yet, there are some three hundred such "general merchandisers" operating in the state of Vermont alone. In Berkshire County, the Monterey General Store is still going strong after more than 225 years of business. What accounts for the paradoxical persistence of the country store in a land billed by some analysts as "big box country"? Perhaps the main reason these smaller stores have survived for so long is that they can deliver a unique blend of services with a human touch. Beyond selling all and sundry items, country stores serve as gathering places, post offices, and local credit unions. Consequently, they are very often pillars of their communities. In *Country Stores of Vermont*, Dennis Bathory-Kitsz, executive director of the Vermont Alliance of Independent Country Stores, shows how all these elements come together as he takes the reader on a stimulating tour of a uniquely New England institution.

As the subtitle implies, the author's tour is equal parts history and travel guide. Appropriately enough, one of the milestones the reader encounters along the way is the development of the turnpike in 1795. Turnpikes (and later, railroads) brought vibrant commercial activity, such that many towns soon had as many as three country stores at one time: one selling heavier gear like farming implements and wool clothes, another with groceries and lighter clothing, and yet another selling seeds and gardening tools. As the commercial culture matured, stores gradually became more specialized. The Boston Fruit Company in Barre, for example, was strictly a food store, and its proprietor, Basilio Dente, made a fine living selling cantaloupes and watermelon to the city's granite workers.

That Barre, a city famous for its socialist roots, should make an appearance in this book is hardly coincidental. Country stores have often played a political role. In the early nineteenth century, sympathetic country storekeepers started letting their shops be used as stops on the Underground Railroad. They managed pretty well in that capacity, evading suspicion since "no one took any special notice when large boxes were loaded and unloaded there." In more recent years, shepherd-shopkeeper Linda Faillace galvanized community activism over the mad cow scare from her East Warren Schoolhouse Market. Her store-bred struggle led her to write *Mad Sheep*, which chronicles the small farmer's battle with big government bureaucracy.

For those who wish to do less reading and more meandering amongst these historic stores, the book also contains nine auto tours of Vermont. One tour of the state's western region leads from Pownal to Montreal by way of the Champlain Islands. Along the way, the motorist may want to stop at the porticoed Powers Market in North Bennington or the Hero's Welcome General Store in North Hero, by the Canadian border.

The author is that rare guide who is knowledgeable about the terrain without suffering the delusion of knowing it all. Bathory-Kitsz readily admits that "the history of Vermont's country stores cannot be told in a single volume." Nevertheless, *Country Stores of Vermont* is an admirable attempt to do just that.

— Seth Kershner

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Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions.
Jeffrey Purvis
James Pearson Jr.
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Ann Canning
Patricia Salomon & Julio Rodriguez
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur L. Wright
Ann Tarbell

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2010 Real Estate and Personal Property second quarter tax bills have been mailed and are due **November 2**, 2009. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Tax Collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). Taxpayers who paid the second quarter with their first quarter payment will not receive bills. Payments may be mailed to PO Box 241, Monterey, MA 01245 or brought to the Town Hall. The Tax Collector's office hours are Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Payments may also be left with the Interdepartmental Secretary when the Tax Collector's office is closed.

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OCT. 9TH: BONNER MCALLESTER
Hosts Patrice Leconte's
"THE WIDOW OF ST. PIERRE"
OCT. 16TH: SIMON WINCHESTER
Hosts Michael Powell/Emeric Pressburger's
"THE LIFE AND DEATH OF COLONEL BLIMP"
OCT. 23RD: DIEGO ONGARO
Hosts Francois Truffaut's "BED AND BOARD"
OCT. 30TH: BONNER MCALLESTER
Hosts Neal Slavin's "FOCUS"

To the Monterey Community

Seven weeks ago, on August 13th, we were devastated by the news that our youngest child, Colm, had died early that morning in a traffic accident. Our memories of the days that followed, as we and our older children, Eoin and Deirdre, notified relatives and friends, planned Colm's funeral, and tried not to imagine too clearly what our lives would now be like without him, are blurred. However, there is one memory that is very clear—the love and support that we received from our, and Colm's, friends and neighbors during those dreadful days.

We, together with Eoin and Deirdre, would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the people of Monterey. Colm was so proud of being from this town and would have been even more proud if he had been here to see how Monterey reached out its collective arms to support and comfort his family. It helped, and continues to help, ease our pain a little and we will never forget it.

— Ann and John Higgins

Are you concerned about global warming?
Help us send the message to the Copenhagen Climate Conference!
Join us on October 24th at 11 a.m. on the Meeting House steps, Monterey, for a group picture that shows how much we care!

An International Day of Climate Action
oct. 24 2009
Join the movement
350.org

11 a.m. - Picture taking - bring signs that say "350" if you wish
12 p.m. - Lunch at the Monterey General Store - see other groups' photos online
1 p.m. - Watch "Monterey Lights the Way" in the Church basement

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 4 p.m., Town Hall.

Every Friday in October: Classic films, 7:30 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center. $5. See schedule on p. 14.

Through Columbus Day: Early Farm & Garden Tools Exhibit, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Thursday–Monday, Bidwell House.

Saturday, October 3:

Rededication of Diane's Trail Bridge, Curtis Road kiosk, 10 a.m. See p. 7.

Barbecue, contradance benefit for Gould Farm, honoring Gige O'Connell 6 p.m., Monterey Firehouse.

American writers Roy Blount, Jr., Jayne Anne Phillips, Elizabeth Kolbert, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. $25. See p. 15.

Monday, October 5: Friends of Monterey Library meeting, Library, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 9: Flu Shot Clinic, Town Hall 2:30–3:30 p.m. See p. 5.

Saturday, October 10:

Annual Pumpkin Fest, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Bidwell House. Free. See p. 10.

Sunday, October 11: Traditional Carriage Driving Day, Route 57 through center of New Marlboirough, 10 a.m. See p. 19.

Monday, October 12:

Columbus Day; Town Offices closed.

Meeting House Trail Walk led by local historian, George Emmons, 10 a.m., Bidwell House Museum. Refreshments will follow. See p. 10.

Thursday, October 15:

SBRSD School Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Monterey School, Main Road. Public invited.

Lake Garfield drawdown begins.

Saturday, October 17:

Firemen's Ball, 6 p.m., Monterey Firehouse. See p. 5.

Documentary film *Blind Spot*, on Peak Oil and Global Warming, 7 p.m. Monterey Meetinghouse basement. Free. See p. 12.

Guitarist Joel Brown and clarinetist Frank Brown in classical and jazz concert, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center. $20. See p. 14.

Tuesday, October 20: CHP Free Health Screening, Community Health Program, 10 a.m.–noon, Town Hall.

Wednesday, October 21: Community Dinner, 6 p.m. Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Richard Edelstein will speak on Albert Einstein. See p. 4.

Saturday, October 24:

Activities in support of 350, global movement to act on global warming. 11 a.m.: Bring your signs and meet on Meetinghouse steps. 1 p.m.: showing of vintage Monterey movie *Monterey Lights the Way*, Meetinghouse. See pp. 8–9.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Ralph Sweet. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Information 528-9385.

Monday, October 26: Adult Reading Group meets, Monterey Library, 7 p.m. See p. 7.

Wednesday, October 28: Home weatherization seminar, 7 p.m., Tyringham Town Hall, Main Road. Free. See p. 19.

The Observer
August 26–September 25

High temp. (8/26)	77°
Low temp. (9/20)	36°
Avg. high temp.	67.7°
Avg. low temp.	48.4°
Avg. temp.	58.1°
Total rainfall	2.26 in.

Rainfall occurred on 8 days.

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Contributions from local and visiting artists this month: David Paul Bacharach, pp. 12, 15, 26; George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 18; Glynis Oliver, pp. 14, 19.

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